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Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Western Asia

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Overall orientation

18.1 The overall orientation of programme 18 is to foster comprehensive, integrated and sustainable development and economic and social cooperation in the region and to maintain and strengthen economic relations between the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other countries of the world. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

18.2 Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 and 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, establishing ESCWA and amending the terms of reference to underscore the social functions of the Commission. Further direction is provided in ESCWA resolution 220 (XX) of 27 May 1999, on the adoption, by ESCWA member countries, of the Beirut Declaration, which envisioned an enhanced role for the Commission at the regional level; and, by the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-first session (May 2001) that activities focus on a limited number of priorities, on Arab regional integration and on the study of mechanisms that would activate such integration. The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, dealing with such matters as trade, sustainable development, social development, finance, and information and communication technologies, provide further policy direction to the programme.

18.3 In the biennium 2006-2007, ESCWA will reinforce the orientation set out in the reform and restructuring effort undertaken in 2002-2003 to achieve its full potential and reap the benefits in terms of improved programme outcomes. The key priority areas identified at that time — globalization and regional integration, social policies, water and energy, and information and communication technologies — remain valid and are reflected in the strategic framework. These priorities both are an integral part of the global agendas and are region-specific.

18.4 Overall, the programme seeks to promote successful outcomes in the countries of Western Asia in key areas of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. The programme is structured around seven interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, which, on the basis of core analytical and normative work and through regional coordination and cooperation, aim in particular to enhance capacity development, upon request of member countries, to build consensus and negotiate agreements in global and regional forums, to formulate, implement and monitor policies, strategies, programmes and measures and to establish and manage related mechanisms. A salient feature of the strategy is to strengthen the capacity of member countries to prepare for, monitor and follow up progress towards internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992 with a view to achieving agreed goals and targets. Other important elements are awareness-raising, policy dialogue, advocacy and advice, knowledge-sharing and networking, training and technical support and, importantly, partnership development.

18.5 As the Western Asia region continues to be beset by instability and wanting for peace, ESCWA will continue to give special emphasis to countries emerging from conflict and the governance of recovery, pursuant to ESCWA resolution 241 (XXII).

The recent evolving situation in the region requires flexibility to quickly respond to emerging issues, such as youth employment, and to participate in special initiatives.

18.6 To ensure system-wide coherence, ESCWA will undertake its work in close cooperation and coordination with other United Nations entities, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO). As an active member of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, ESCWA will devote attention to ensuring clarity in the roles and responsibilities of global and regional bodies with regard to follow-up on internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. ESCWA will continue to collaborate with regional and national organizations, as well as with civil society and the private sector.

Subprogramme 1
Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development

Objective of the Organization: To improve the sustainable management and use of natural resources in the region, with particular emphasis on water, energy, environmental protection and the production sectors.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate and adopt integrated environmentally sound policies and measures and introduce mechanisms to improve the sustainable management of natural resources, with particular emphasis on the water, energy and production sectors	(a) (i) An increase in the number of countries formulating and adopting policies and measures and introducing mechanisms to improve sustainable resource use and management (ii) An increase in the number of policies adopted and implemented by countries in the region to protect the environment and decrease pollution
(b) Improved performance and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises by networking and clustering and harnessing technology and innovation	(b) (i) An increase in the number of business associations that facilitate the development of clusters and networks of small and medium-sized enterprises (ii) An increase in the number of measures adopted to improve the use of technology and innovation
(c) Increased application of measures and approaches for integrated water resource management in the region for the prevention of water and environment-related disputes	(c) An increase in the number of measures applied by member States relating to integrated water resources management, shared water resources and environmental impacts

Strategy

18.7 The ESCWA region is suffering from a scarcity of water re irces, which is aggravated by their inefficient use. This is manifested in wast l consumption patterns, particularly in the agricultural sector. The region also suf s from disputes over rights to shared water resources. On the other hand, the abu ance of fossil-fuel energy has encouraged unsustainable production and consum n patterns that have adverse impacts on the environment. Despite the abundanc f conventional and renewable energy resources, rural areas have limited access t nergy services. The production sectors suffer from low productivity and weak co titiveness, due mainly to the inefficient use of resources, insufficient networking a clustering and poor use of technology. Costs of environmental protection have n yet been fully taken into consideration in the production process.

18.8 This subprogramme, which is under the responsibility o he Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, will concentrate on acilitating the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strate s, policies and programmes and on assisting member countries in their f ow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and in achieving its targe as well as the Millennium Development Goals and targets, especially target 9, integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and ogrammes and reversing the loss of environmental resources, and target 10, on su nable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, of goal 7, on ensuri environmental sustainability. The subprogramme will continue to serve as a for for promoting policy dialogue as a means to reach common positions and enhanc ynergies among the countries of the region; facilitate regional cooperation, p icularly in the management of shared water resources, and enhance negotiation kills to prevent disputes; support national and regional capacity-building in iority areas of sustainable development, especially in the fields of integrated ma gement of water resources and energy efficiency; facilitate the establishment an coordination of mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on environmental issue and assist small and medium-sized enterprises through clustering and networki and improving their use of technology. This will be achieved by undertaking rese h and analytical studies, convening meetings and seminars, disseminating best prac es and building capacity through workshops and advisory services on pr ity sustainable development issues related to water, energy, the environment a the production sectors.

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen coherent and integrated national social policies and community development action towards reducing social inequity and enhancing social stability in the region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of member States to formulate integrated social policies and programmes	(a) (i) An increase in the number of countries adopting an approach of integrated social policies and programmes
	(ii) An increase in the number of countries that formulate population and social policies aimed at vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
(b) Increased capacity of civil society institutions in implementing community development mechanisms	(b) (i) An increase in the number of civil society institutions and local communities adopting the approach and mechanisms developed by ESCWA for social services at the local level
	(ii) An increase in the number of networking mechanisms among civil society institutions and local communities

Strategy

18.9 The ESCWA member countries are confronted by political instability, an imbalance in the provision of basic social services between urban and rural areas and between the different social strata and widening disparities in income distribution, associated with increasing poverty and unemployment and lack of security of tenure. National social policies are often conflicting and seldom harmonized and are frequently formulated and implemented with little input from local communities or civil society institutions. They do not foster a rights-based approach to development. Development potential is further impeded by the failure to develop human capital, notably youth, women and vulnerable and disadvantaged social groups such as the disabled and victims of conflict.

18.10 In 2006-2007, the strategy of this subprogramme, which is under the responsibility of the Social Development Division, is to shift the focus from the sectoral approach of 2002-2003 and build on advocacy for integrated social policies in 2004-2005 by enhancing the capacity of member States, at their request, to formulate integrated social policies. There will be increased emphasis on assisting member countries in the implementation of the plans of action of the global conferences and Millennium Development Goals (1, 4, 5 and 8); supporting member countries in strengthening institutions and the capacity of national and regional mechanisms, leading to integrated regional responses and concerted actions; assisting member countries in formulating integrated policy action with particular regard to poverty and unemployment reduction, with a focus on youth, women and

the disabled; supporting member countries and local authorities in formulating appropriate, innovative and integrated policies and programmes on population and development; improving the physical environment and advocating partnerships between governments and municipalities; increasing capacity for popular participation in urban development at the local level, particularly in cities and other urban areas; and assisting in post-conflict recovery measures. The subprogramme will continue to serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue and networking, increasing popular participation and providing technical cooperation, including advisory services on various social issues and on the production and dissemination of gender-sensitive social statistics and indicators.

Subprogramme 3
Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen macroeconomic policy-making for short-term economic growth and sustainable economic development in member countries, including those emerging from conflict.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding of the use of macroeconomic variables and indicators of performance for economic forecasting in policy-making and planning	(a) An increase in the percentage of target users of the flagship publications and other economic studies indicating their satisfaction with the information and advice contained therein
(b) Improved national capacity to formulate macroeconomic policy and development programmes	(b) An increase in the number of macroeconomic policies and development programmes formulated and tools developed by member countries, including those emerging from conflict

Strategy

18.11The region is suffering from low rates of economic growth and investment, resulting in high unemployment rates, particularly among youth. During the past quarter of a century, several countries in the region have experienced war and civil conflict, resulting in the destruction of physical productive capacities and infrastructure, as well as a significant weakening of institutional and human resource capacities. For other member countries, the prevailing atmosphere of great economic and political uncertainty within the region has undermined prospects for steadier development, high rates of investment and productivity growth. As market size has been constricted and intraregional integration has faced obstacles, economic growth rates have remained low.

18.12 The strategy of this subprogramme, which is under the responsibility of the Economic Analysis Division, includes two new elements, namely, advocacy for the coordination of macroeconomic policies among the countries of the region and the provision of assistance on macroeconomic issues and policies to countries emerging from conflict. Other elements of the strategy include (a) enhancing policy-making options through economic projections and forecasts; (b) in-depth analyses of

economic developments and trends; (c) analysis of the main trends in the performance of production sectors; and (d) analysis of fiscal and monetary developments and policies, including trends in foreign and domestic debt and trends in the environment of increased competitiveness. A greater effort will be made to provide quality advisory services in economic policy to complement analytical work. The subprogramme will use quantitative techniques and produce impact analyses and continue to analyse issues of uncertainty and risk that affect investment, economic growth and unemployment.

Subprogramme 4
Regional integration and responding to globalization

Objective of the Organization: To improve the management of challenges posed and opportunities offered by globalization, strengthen regional integration and mobilize sufficient financial resources for development.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced ability of member countries to implement policies and measures recommended by the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development	(a) An increase in the number of policies and measures adopted by member countries to implement the Monterrey Consensus
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to implement and monitor the integrated transport system in the Arab Mashreq	(b) An increase in the number of policy measures adopted by member countries to implement the integrated transport system in the Arab Mashreq
(c) Greater compliance by member countries with the requirements of the multilateral trading system and regional integration agreements	(c) An increase in the number of rules, regulations and policies adopted by member countries in conformity with WTO provisions and regional agreements

Strategy

18.13 Despite the various efforts made towards regional integration since the 1950s, the basic requirements for achieving economic integration have not been established. In a world moving increasingly towards the establishment of large economic blocs, regional economic integration becomes a matter of vital importance. Two major impediments to regional and international integration and to increased competitiveness are the backwardness of the transport sector and the region's insufficient compliance with international standards and agreements. Most ESCWA member countries were late-comers to the multilateral trading system and need to adapt and cope with its requirements to avoid marginalization and increase their competitiveness. Furthermore, the region, in general, has not succeeded in mobilizing sufficient financial resources for development needs.

18.14 The strategy of this subprogramme, which is under the responsibility of the Globalization and Regional Integration Division, will be to develop the mechanism for implementing the agreements on the integrated transport system in the Arab Mashreq and monitor their implementation. After developing the road and railway

transport agreements, the subprogramme will endeavour to reach an agreement on maritime transport and facilitate measures for air transport in the region. Emphasis will also be placed on strengthening the negotiation skills of member States in respect of the WTO negotiation process and continuing to increase their understanding of opportunities and challenges of WTO, as well as those of regional integration agreements. Furthermore, the subprogramme will continue to assist member countries, at their request, in implementing the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development. Support will be provided in enhancing regional development by analysing existing credit and investment policies and formulating specific recommendations for the improvement of existing investment laws, regulations and incentives in order to increase significantly the attractiveness of member countries to domestic and foreign investors, with particular emphasis on intraregional capital flows and the return of capital invested outside the region. The subprogramme will facilitate dialogue among member countries as a means of reducing differences and reaching common positions; increase understanding by undertaking research and analytical studies, convening meetings and disseminating best practices; and build capacity through workshops and advisory services.

Subprogramme 5
Information and communication technology for regional integration

Objective of the Organization: To narrow the digital divide to build an inclusive development-oriented information society and knowledge-based economy.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved, enabling environment for the development of the information society and knowledge-based economy in the region through relevant instruments	(a) (i) An increase in the number of member countries implementing strategies and plans of action for building the information society and knowledge-based economy, in line with regional and international agreements and recommendations (ii) Member countries show improvement in Millennium Development Goal indicators 47 and 48, related to goal 8, target 18, on information and communication technologies (ICT)
(b) Activated partnership for implementing ICT projects to achieve socio-economic development, with particular emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals	(b) (i) An increase in the number of new partnerships between stakeholders of the information society, focused on development in the region (ii) An increase in the number of governmental institutions and national stakeholders participating in ICT partnerships and knowledge networks

Strategy

18.15 Western Asia suffers from a widening digital divide: at the internal level, between Gulf and other member countries, on the one hand, and between cities and rural areas, on the other; and externally, between the region and other regions of the world. Currently, ICT indicators for the region as a whole are lower than world averages. At the same time, the region has development potential that needs to be exploited in building the information society, particularly in terms of the common language and cultural heritage. Greater efforts need to be deployed in increasing literacy and education levels and tapping human resources and talents, especially among women and the growing youth population.

18.16 Through regional preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, the subprogramme, for which the Information and Communication Technology Division is responsible, will serve as a forum for dialogue to adopt joint positions and formulate harmonized policies and strategies on information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance socio-economic development and increase regional integration. It is imperative to raise awareness of the need to move towards a knowledge-based economy, as well as of the importance of regional collaboration and partnership in building the information society, institutional capacity-building in ICT, enhancing digital Arabic content and ICT sector development. The subprogramme will contribute to the establishment of coordination and cooperation mechanisms between regional players, both private and public, engaged in ICT development activities and to the creation of new partnerships. Research, analytical studies, meetings, knowledge networking and advisory services will contribute to this endeavour. Pilot projects for employment creation and poverty reduction through ICT will also be launched and their best practices disseminated in the region. Support will be provided to member countries in the context of a regional plan of action for building the information society that respects the particularities and linguistic and cultural priorities of the region.

Subprogramme 6
Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making

Objective of the Organization: To improve the production and use of harmonized and comparable economic, social and sectoral statistics, including gender-disaggregated statistics.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased capacities of ESCWA member States to produce harmonized macroeconomic, international trade and sectoral statistics	(a) An increase in the number of countries implementing international standards in the production of trade and transport statistics, sectoral statistics and the 1993 System of National Accounts
(b) Strengthened skills of national statistical officials to produce gender-disaggregated social statistics and indicators as well as data required to measure progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and for monitoring the implementation of the outcomes of major global conferences	(b) (i) An increase in the number of national reports containing gender-disaggregated social statistics and indicators (ii) An increase in the number of national statistical offices that provide data for measuring progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and for monitoring the implementation of the outcomes of major global conferences

Strategy

18.17 ESCWA countries are faced with the challenge of producing and disseminating data and statistics that are comparable and timely to respond to their national and the international development agendas. Better harmonization of statistics through the adoption of international standards and concepts is essential for enhancing the quality of these data and making them available for use by policy makers and analysts in member countries.

18.18 The Statistics Coordination Unit will coordinate the statistical functions within ESCWA. Each of the substantive divisions of ESCWA will implement the statistical component that is related to its mandate.

18.19 The subprogramme will be oriented towards assisting member countries, at their request, in implementing international standards and improving the consistency and reliability of national statistics. It will increase the capacity of member countries to produce gender-disaggregated statistics and indicators and monitor progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It will also assist the countries of the region in adopting and applying the scientific standards employed internationally for amassing, analysing and disseminating statistical data and indicators, with a view to enabling those countries to formulate economic and social policies and monitor progress towards the achievement of national development objectives. A variety of modalities, including publications, meetings, workshops and advisory services, will

be employed to build national capacities. Greater effort will be made to increase the electronic dissemination of statistics and indicators.

Subprogramme 7
Advancement and empowerment of women

Objective of the Organization: To increase the focus on women and gender issues with a view to reducing gender imbalances and empowering women.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of national mechanisms for the empowerment and advancement of women to address gender imbalances and mainstream a gender perspective	(a) (i) An increase in the number of gender units or autonomous or permanent national mechanisms for women established by member countries (ii) An increase in the number of countries adopting a gender-mainstreaming approach in national policies
(b) Increased civil society institution involvement in and contribution to policy dialogue with governments on gender issues and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of global conferences	(b) An increase in the number of non-governmental organizations involved in policy dialogue on gender issues and in monitoring the implementation of global conferences

Strategy

18.20 The region is characterized by low rates of women's participation in the economic, social and political domains, despite their increased educational levels. Although the constitutions of most ESCWA countries recognize women's equal civil and political rights, this has not been translated in practice into women's full realization of their civic, legal and political rights. The political participation rate of women is one of the lowest in the world. The patriarchal structure and cultural norms of the region have acted as a barrier impeding the advancement of women. The participation of civil society institutions in policy dialogue at the regional level, as well as their contribution to the implementation of recommendations of global conferences, and the monitoring thereof, is rather modest.

18.21 This subprogramme reflects the determination of ESCWA to increase its focus on women's issues and ameliorate the status and participation of women in the region, pursuant to ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII) of April 2003. The ESCWA Centre for Women, which serves as the secretariat of the Committee on Women, will assume a major role in the region in assisting in gender mainstreaming, empowering women and promoting gender equality. It will also strive to promote partnerships between governments and civil society institutions.

18.22 To achieve its objective, the subprogramme will pursue the strategy of raising awareness and understanding of women's issues and of the vital role of non-governmental organizations in this respect; promoting dialogue on critical areas of concern for the advancement of women and for fostering partnerships between civil

society institutions and governments; facilitating the reaching of common regional positions with regard to women's issues; assisting member countries in formulating realistic action-oriented gender equality policies; and promoting gender mainstreaming. The subprogramme will also monitor developments with respect to the status of women and will evaluate indicators and statistics with a view to assisting member countries, at their request, to formulate an integrated policy for the advancement and empowerment of women in the region. This will be achieved by complementing normative activities with the provision of technical assistance, including advisory services, to member countries and civil society institutions.

Legislative mandates

General mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration (all subprogrammes)
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (all subprogrammes)
57/270 A and B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (all subprogrammes)
58/113	Assistance to the Palestinian people (all subprogrammes)
58/129	Towards global partnerships (all subprogrammes)
58/172	The right to development (all subprogrammes)
58/207	Human resources development (all subprogrammes)
58/225	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (subprogrammes 4 and 5)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1996/46	Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (all subprogrammes)
1999/5	Poverty eradication and capacity-building (all subprogrammes)
2000/27	Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels (all subprogrammes)
2003/49	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (all subprogrammes)
2003/56	Science and technology for development (subprogrammes 1 and 5)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

220 (XX)	Adoption of the Beirut Declaration (all subprogrammes)
241 (XXII)	The impact of the lack of stability in the Arab region on economic and social development (all subprogrammes)

Subprogramme 1
Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

57/243	Industrial development cooperation
57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
57/271	World Food Summit: five years later
58/200	Science and technology for development
58/210	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005
58/211	International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006
58/217	International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
58/218	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
58/242	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
58/243	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1991/85	Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan
1991/86	Development and efficient use of energy resources

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

Resolution 244 (XXII)	Cooperation between ESCWA member countries with respect to shared water resources and the Arab network for the integrated management of water resources
Resolution 234 (XXI)	Rationalization and increased efficiency of energy and the use of renewable sources of energy

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

General Assembly resolutions

58/130	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
58/131	Cooperatives in social development
58/132	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century
58/133	Policies and programmes involving youth
58/134	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
58/146	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
58/222	Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)
58/226	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/15	Agreed conclusions on national and international cooperation for social development
2003/62	Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Subprogramme 3
Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development

General Assembly resolutions

58/202	International financial system and development
58/220	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
58/230	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

Subprogramme 4
Regional integration and responding to globalization

General Assembly resolutions

57/240	Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

58/193	Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights
58/197	International trade and development
58/202	International financial system and development
58/203	External debt crisis and development
58/220	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
58/221	Programme of Action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005
58/225	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
58/230	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

243 (XXII)	Adoption of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq

Subprogramme 5
Information and communication technology for regional integration

General Assembly resolutions

57/238	World Summit on the Information Society
57/295	Information and communication technologies for development
58/200	Science and technology for development
58/225	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/48	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

245 (XXII)	The ESCWA initiative for activating the role of science, technology and technological innovation in achieving the Millennium Goals
246 (XXII)	The formulation of a regional plan of action for an information society

Subprogramme 6
Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	System of National Accounts

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

247 (XXII)	The development of statistical work in the ESCWA region

Subprogramme 7
Advancement and empowerment of women

General Assembly resolutions

58/142	Women and political participation
58/148	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
58/206	Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/9	The establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a committee on women